DURALOY COMPANY
(U.S. Iron Pipe & Foundry Company)
Jacobs Creek
Scottdale
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-255

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

DURALOY COMPANY
(U.S. Cast Iron and Foundry Company)

HAER No. PA-255

Location:	Jacobs Creek, Scottdale, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
Date of Construction:	1870s - 1970s
Builder:	unknown
Present Owner:	Duraloy Blaw-Knox Co.
Present Use:	manufacturing
Significance:	From 1885 until 1936, National Foundry & Pipe Works Ltd. and its successor, United States Cast Iron and Foundry Company manufactured cast iron water and gas pipes and fittings. The Duraloy Company took over the Scottdale plant in 1937 after its West Virginia factory burned. By 1945, it was one of the largest producers of equipment for the manufacture of magnesium, and a supplier for the Manhattan Project.
Project Information:	In February, 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HAER undertook a comprehensive inventory of Westmoreland County to identify the region's surviving historic engineering works and industrial resources.
Compiler:	Gray Fitzsimons and Kenneth Rose, Editors

DESCRIPTION: The Duraloy Company is located on a floodplain and terrace of Jacobs Creek in Scottdale. Foundry for Static Castings and Core Shed, and Foundry for Centrifugal Castings and Fabrication: built 1950s-70s; three large adjoining steel-frame buildings; corrugated metal siding; multiple gable roofs with gable-roof and sawtooth monitors; monitors have multi-light windows. Machine Shop: built ca. 1900, a tall one-story and two-story steel-frame building; measures approximately 190' x 60' and contains common-bond red-brick walls; gable roof; rubble stone foundation; multi-light windows. Pattern Shop: built ca. 1890, a two-and-one-half story building; common-bond reck brick walls; gable roof; rubble stone foundation; multi-light double-hung windows with stone lintels and sills; corbelling above bays. Duralizing Department: formerly a powerhouse; built ca. 1890, a tall one-story building; common-bond red-brick walls; gable roof with full-length monitor; rubble stone foundation; attached to the Duralizing Department is the Radiography Laboratory: formerly associated with the powerhouse; built ca. 1890, two adjoining one-story buildings; common-bond red-brick walls; gable roof; rubble stone foundation. Main Offices: erected ca. 1930s, a two-story building; stretcher-bond red-brick, painted yellow; flat roof with stone parapet wall; brick quoins; new windows; stone and concrete foundation; this office building is connected to the laboratory by a recently built one-story brick building. Chemical-Metallurgical Laboratory and Operations Office: built ca. 1930s, a one-story building; common-bond red-brick walls painted yellow; gable roof with monitor; concrete foundation; multi-light double-hung windows with concrete sills, porthole window at gable end; corbelled brick cornice. Raw Material Classification and Storage Building: erected in the 1970s, two adjoining steel-frame buildings covered with corrugated metal. Old Hay Storage Buildings: built ca. 1870, three small one-story buildings, each containing common-bond red-brick walls, a gable roof with tin and slate shingles, and rubble stone foundations. They are of timber post-and-beam construction and have brick "X" motifs at the gable ends.

The buildings at the Duraloy foundry complex have experienced few alterations since they were constructed by the U.S. Iron Pipe and Foundry Company. According to the owners, however, the company has continued to upgrade the machinery and has retained none of the early machines. There are three small buildings, the former Hay Storage Buildings, that were part of the Everson and McCrum Company's factory. These structures were used for the storage of the raw materials required for rope making.

HISTORY: The National Foundry & Pipe Works Ltd. was chartered in 1885 for the manufacture of cast-iron pipes. The daily production at the plant was limited to less than 50 tons in the first year. This firm acquired the adjacent Charlotte Furnace Company for $50,000 in 1886. Charlotte Furnace had been built in 1873 by Everson, Knap & Company, and included an iron furnace and rolling mill. The furnace was closed when National Foundry purchased it, however, and was not reopened until 1894, when it was leased to Corrigan, McKinney & Company of Cleveland. The steel-constructed blast furnace stood 70' high and produced between 55 and 60 tons daily, and employed 75 workers. In 1899, National Foundry was acquired by the U.S. Cast Iron and Foundry Company, which had a capital of $30 million and owned and operated facilities in thirteen other cities. The Scottdale plant made cast iron water pipes and gas pipes and their fittings ranged in size from 3" to 48" inclusive, with the capability to make 72" pipes. The firm employed 629 workers in 1916 and 592 workers in 1935. The company closed in 1936, employing only 19 workers in its last year of operation (1935).

The Duraloy Company was organized by Thomas R. Heywood Jr. in 1922 in West Virginia. Duraloy's West Virginia plant was destroyed by flood and fire and the firm moved to Scottdale in February 1937 occupying the vacant U.S. Pipe and Foundry Company facility and employing 85 workers in its first year of operation. The company was one of the largest producers of equipment for the manufacture of magnesium by 1945, and one of the producers that supplied materials for the Manhattan Project. By 1947, Duraloy was employing 445 men producing 21 types of alloy castings of nickel and chrome for various industrial application. The Duraloy Company is now called Duraloy Blaw-Knox, employing 325 workers in 1982. The following equipment was used at the facility as of 1982: electric melting furnaces, annealing furnace, centrifugal casting machines, foundry molding machines, core ovens, x-ray and gamma ray equipment. The firm manufactures tubes, valves, pipes, and fittings as well as alloy castings that are resistant to heat, corrosion and abrasion.

Sources:

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